



# **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

Region 2  
3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804  
Phone 406-542-5500

June 7, 2018

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review, the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to accept the donation from a private landowner, of approximately 7 acres along the Bitterroot River near Stevensville in Ravalli County. FWP proposes to acquire this land with the intention of providing additional public access to the river and developing the Stevensville Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS). Proposed developments at the FAS would include: designated parking areas, gravel access road, primitive camping area, concrete vault latrine, boundary and interior fencing, bicycle/pedestrian and ADA trail connections, and informational signs. The site has been used locally for river access without facilities, and the existing area where boaters have traditionally launched would continue to serve as the designated launch at the FAS. In addition to improving recreational opportunities along the Bitterroot River, development of the site would provide opportunity to restore the riparian vegetation by revegetating portions of the streambank denuded by past heavy recreational use.

The draft EA may be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing [shrose@mt.gov](mailto:shrose@mt.gov); or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("News," then "Recent Public Notices," beginning June 7).

Comments may be made on FWP's website (webpage above) or directed to Sharon Rose at the mail or email addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than July 6, 2018.

As part of the decision-making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I plan to issue the Decision Notice for this EA very soon after the end of the public comment period. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP land acquisition and development proposals, and FWP expects to ask the Commission to render its decision at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> in Helena.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Arnold', written in a cursive style.

Randy Arnold  
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr